

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4759

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 4 NAIROBI 8471/1

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TAGS:

SUBJ: CODEL DIGGS' STATEMENT ON MIDDLE EAST

REF: STATE 243180

FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE WITH REP.
CHARLES DIGGS AT NAIROBI DECEMBER TWO.

DIGGS: AS THE GENTLEMAN INDICATED I AM CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA AND IN THAT CAPACITY HAVE TRAVELED TO ALL OF THE FORTY-ONE INDEPENDENT NATIONS OVER THE PERIOD OF MY TENURE ON THE COMMITTEE. AND IN ADDITION TO THAT I HAVE TRAVELED TO THE YET-TO-BE-LIBERATED PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES, SO-CALLED PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES OF ANGOLA-GUINEA BISSAU, MOZAMBIQUE. WE HAVE BEEN TO THE SEYCHELLES AND SEVERAL OTHER POSSESSIONS. SO WE ARE NOT STRANGERS TO THE CONTINENT. WE'VE BEEN HERE OVER AND OVER AGAIN. WE HAVE TRAVELED TO AFRICA MORE FREQUENTLY THAN ANY OTHER MEMBER OF CONGRESS. AND IN THAT CAPACITY WE PLANNED A TRIP WHICH TOOK US FIRST, LEAVING ON NOVEMBER SEVENTEENTH, TO BRAZIL TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THERE CONCERNING THEIR EMERGING AFRICA POLICY. AS YOU KNOW, LAST DECEMBER THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF BRAZIL TRAVELED TO THIS CONTINENT, VISITED SOME NINE NATIONS, AND EMERGING OUT OF THAT VISIT WAS THE OUTLINE OF A POLICY TOWARD AFRICA TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION ITS HISTORIC TIES TO PORTUGAL AND THE SENSITIVITIES INVOLVED IN THE PORTUGUESE-AFRICAN

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POLITICS, THE PROSPECT OF THEM PLAYING A BRIDGE ROLE

BETWEEN THE AFRICAN NATIONS AND THE PORTUGUESE RELATIVE TO THAT VERY DELGATE SOUTHERN AFRICAN QUESTION. ARISING OUT OF THAT MISSION WERE QUESTIONS CONCERNING THEIR CONTINUED TRADE RELATIONSHIPS WITH SOUTH AFRICA, AND WE WERE INTERESTED IN HAVING DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM AS TO HOW THEY WOULD PROPOSE CONTINUING THAT RATHER UNUSUAL ROLE. AND CAME AWAY FROM THERE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT NUMBER ONE THAT THEY ARE REINFORCED IN THEIR VIEW THAT PORTUGUESE AFRICA WILL BECOME INDEPENDENT BY ONE MEANS OR ANOTHER, THAT IT IS INEVITABLE THAT ANGOLA-MOZAMBIQUE WILL FOLLOW GUINEA BISSAU INTO THE FAMILY OF NATIONS, INDEPENDENT NATIONS AND DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA, GIVEN A CHOICE BETWEEN THEIR INTERESTS, THERE'S NO QUESTION IN THEIR MIND THAT THEY WILL COME DOWN ON THE SIDE OF BLACK AFRICA, ON THE SIDE OF INDEPENDENCE, ON THE SIDE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THOSE AREAS, PARTICULARLY THE PORTUGUESE, PARTICULARLY ANGOLA BECAUSE LUANDA IS ONLY FOUR HOURS AWAY FROM RIO DE JANNIERO. WE LEFT THERE, AND AS THE GENTLEMAN FURTHER INDICATED, CAME TO WEST AFRICA AND MADE A TOUR OF THREE OF THE SIX SAHELLIAN COUNTRIES THAT HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE DROUGHT. SPECIFICALLY WE WENT TO SENEGAL, TO NIGER AND UPPER VOLTA AND HAD DISCUSSIONS THERE WITH THE CHIEFS OF STATE, RANKING OFFICIALS OF THOSE GOVERNMENTS, MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN THOSE COUNTRIES. WE MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES WHO ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE RECOVERY EFFORT IN THOSE AREAS. WE HAVE CONTACTS BEYOND THE OFFICIAL LEVEL WITH THE PEOPLE OF THOSE AREAS THROUGH VISITS UP COUNTRY TO REFUGEE CAMPS AND TO OTHER AREAS THAT WERE DIRECTLY HIT BY THE DROUGHT SITUATION.

WE CAME AWAY FROM THERE PROUD OF OUR OWN COUNTRY'S EFFORTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECOVERY MATTER. THE UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN THE RECOVERY OF THE DROUGHT AREA STANDS ABOVE ALL OTHER DONOR NATIONS, AND IN ADDITION TO THAT THE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR THROUGH INDIVIDUALS AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS HAS ALSO IMPACTED VERY FAVORABLY IN THAT AREA. THEN LEAVING THERE WE MADE THE LONG STRIDE
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ACROSS THE CONTINENT TO THE SOUTH. WE HAVE HAD A STANDING INVITATION TO RETURN TO THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO FOR SOME TIME THROUGH THE PRIME MINISTER AND ALSO THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND THROUGH THE PRIME MINISTER. WE WERE ABLE TO VISIT BOTH COUNTRIES TO EVALUATE THEIR UNIQUE POSITION WITHIN THE SPHERE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICAN INFLUENCE TO SEE HOW VALIANTLY THEY ARE STANDING UP DESPITE THE PRESSURES

FROM THE COLOSSUS TO THE SOUTH, BUT YET THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN THE TWO REFLECTS AGAIN THE DIVERSITY OF AFRICAN
NATIONHOOD. AND WE WERE IMPRESSED WITH EFFORTS THAT
HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE U.S. MISSION THERE TO TRY TO
ENCOURAGE U.S. BUSINESS INVESTMENT IN THOSE COUNTRIES
RATHER THAN TO EXPAND U.S. BUSINESS INVESTMENT IN THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF. AND THEN, AFTER
DISCUSSIONS THERE, WE ARE NOW ON OUR WAY TO THIS
IMPORTANT CONFERENCE OF AMERICANS AND AFRICANS IN ADDIS
ABABA CALLED THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN DIALOGUES. IT'S
THE FOURTH CONFERENCE OF ITS TYPE. IT WILL BE
PARTICIPATED IN BY DISTINGUISHED AFRICANS FROM SEVERAL
NATIONS AND FROM ALL SECTIONS OF AFRICA. AND ON THE
AMERICAN SIDE THERE WILL BE AN INTERRACIAL GROUP FROM
THE UNITED STATES COMPOSED OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS,
LEADING JOURNALISTS, LEADING EDUCATORS, LEADING
PERSONALITIES. AND WE EXPECT OUT OF THAT CONFERENCE

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4760

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TO COME NOT ONLY A REINFORCEMENT OF COMMUNICATION
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES PEOPLES AND AFRICAN PEOPLES,
BUT ALSO HAVE AN EVALUATION OF THAT RELATIONSHIP SO WE
CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE ON-GOING EFFORTS FOR ITS
IMPROVEMENT. WE WILL BE RETURNING TO THE UNITED
STATES THIS TIME NEXT SUNDAY JUST IN TIME FOR THE FINAL
WEEK OF THE CONGRESS, DURING WHICH PERIOD WE EXPECT,
AT LEAST ON THE SENATE SIDE, THAT THERE WILL BE
CONSIDERATION FOR A REPEAL OF THE BYRD AMENDMENT WHICH
AS YOU KNOW IS TIED TO THE IMPORTATION OF CHROME FROM
SO-CALLED RHODESIA. WE LOOK FORWARD TO A REAL TRIUMPH

IN THAT DEBATE, LOOK FORWARD TO THE REPEAL OF THAT LEGISLATION IN THE SENATE. THERE WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT TIME FOR THE HOUSE TO CONSIDER IT, BUT WE ARE GEARING UP FOR THE FINAL LEG OF THAT DEBATE AFTER THE CONGRESS RETURNS IN JANUARY.

PARSONS, REUTERS: CONGRESSMAN, YOU MENTIONED YOU HAD VISITED ALL OF THE FORTY-ONE INDEPENDENT NATIONS IN AFRICA. I NOTE THAT THE OAU NOW HAS FORTY-TWO MEMBERS, RECOGNIZING GUINEA BISSAU AS AN INDEPENDENT STATE. I ALSO RECALL THAT MR. DAVID NEWSOM HAS SAID THAT THE U.S. WILL NEVER RECOGNIZE THIS. WHAT ARE YOUR FEELINGS ON THE RECOGNITION OF GUINEA BISSAU?

DIGGS: WELL, I HAVE PETITIONED MY GOVERNMENT FOR SUCH RECOGNITION. THEY HAVE RESPONDED NEGATIVELY. I BELIEVE THAT MY GOVERNMENT IS WRONG. I BELIEVE THAT THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA BISSAU WILL BE ADMITTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS NEXT FALL. AT THE PRESENT TIME AS YOU KNOW UPWARDS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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NINETY NATIONS HAVE RECOGNIZED GUINEA BISSAU OUT OF ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIVE AND IN MY VIEW THEY MEET ALL THE CRITERIA FOR NATIONHOOD AND THE WITHHOLDING RECOGNITION BY THE UNITED STATES, TO ME, REFLECTS THEIR OWN POLITICS WITH PORTUGAL WITHIN THE NATO COMPLEX, PROBABLY, RATHER THAN A REAL VIEW THAT GUINEA BISSAU IS IN FACT NOT A NATION.

WILLIAMS, VOA: CONGRESSMAN DIGGS, WHEN YOU ARE IN ETHIOPIA, HAVING ALREADY VISITED THE DROUGHT AREAS IN WEST AFRICA, DO YOU HOPE OR EXPECT TO SEE OR TO TALK WITH OFFICIALS ON THE PROBLEM AS IT RELATES TO ETHIOPIA?

DIGGS: YES, THAT IS EMERGING AS AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT IN THE WHOLE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM IN AFRICA. BECAUSE THE SAHELIAN AREA WAS STRUCK MOST SEVERELY, THAT'S WHERE THE FOCUS HAS BEEN, BUT THERE ARE OTHER COUNTRIES THAT OBVIOUSLY ARE AFFECTED BY THESE KINDS OF CONDITIONS, AND AS A MATTER OF FACT WE HAVE SCHEDULED DURING OUR STAY THERE A TRIP INTO THE ETHIOPIAN DROUGHT AREA. AND THERE'S NOT A QUESTION IN MY MIND THAT OUR GOVERNMENT WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE RECOVERY EFFORTS SINCE ETHIOPIA IS ONE OF THE EMPHASIS COUNTRIES ON THIS CONTINENT.

PARSONS, REUTERS: MR. DIGGS, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEMS THAT WILL BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN AMERICANS AND AFRICANS AT A FORUM LIKE THE DIALOGUE IN ADDIS?

DIGGS: WELL, OBVIOUSLY THE WHOLE COMPLEX OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN QUESTIONS ARE PROBABLY THE MOST LIVELY FROM THE POLITICAL STANDPOINT TO DISCUSS THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, TO TALK ABOUT HOW WE CAN REINFORCE, UPGRADE, EXPAND UPON THE FOUNDATIONS BEING BUILT IN THE BLS INDEPENDENT NATIONS, TO TALK ABOUT HOW WE CAN ADD A DIMENSION TO THE EFFORTS BEING EXERTED IN MOZAMBIQUE, ANGOLA

AND GUINEA BISSAU, TO TALK ABOUT HOW WE CAN BE HELPFUL TO COUNTRIES LIKE ZAMBIA THAT BORDER ZIMBABWE AND HAVE PROBLEMS IN THAT REGARD, HOW WE CAN SHORE UP THEIR INDEPENDENCE. AND ALSO HIGH ON THE AGENDA IS A DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF AFRICA BECAUSE THERE ARE, ALL COUNTRIES ARE POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT, BUT NOT ALL COUNTRIES ARE ECONOMICALLY INDEPENDENT AND SO THE QUESTION OF ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE, THE QUESTION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OF VARIOUS TYPES WILL BE HIGH ON THE AGENDA. I'M SURE ALSO THAT THE ENERGY CRISIS WILL BE A VERY LIVELY

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SUBJECT, THE NEW ALLIANCE, OR I SHOULD SAY THE NEWLY STRENGTHENED ALLIANCE BETWEEN AFRICANS AND ARABS GROWING OUT OF THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS, THE BOYCOTT OF SELECTED COUNTRIES SUCH AS SOUTH AFRICA, PORTUGAL, ISRAEL IS IMPACTING UPON THE ENERGY NEEDS IN AFRICA. IT HAS SOME VERY COMPLICATED COMPONENTS TO IT. FOR EXAMPLE, YOU TAKE A COUNTRY LIKE LESOTHO WHICH IS COMPLETELY SURROUNDED BY SOUTH AFRICA, THE QUESTION IS IF YOU BOYCOTT, WITHHOLD OIL SUPPLIES FROM SOUTH AFRICA, HOW DO YOU AT THE SAME TIME AVOID BANKRUPTING LESOTHO, BECAUSE EVERYTHING THAT COMES IN THAT COUNTRY HAS GOT TO COME THROUGH SOUTH AFRICA. AND THERE ARE OTHERS THAT ARE SIMILARLY SITUATED, OTHER COUNTRIES THAT ARE DEPENDENT UPON RESOURCES OF CERTAIN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, WHO WILL BE AFFECTED BY THIS. SO I'M SURE THAT WILL BE A SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION. AND THEN, OF COURSE, THE ONGOING QUESTION OF COMMUNICATION AMONG THE VARIOUS NATIONS, PARTICULARLY AS IT RELATES TO FORUMS OF THAT TYPE, AND

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4761

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LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WHEN THE QUESTION OF GUINEA BISSAU WILL BE UP ALSO. I THINK, PROBABLY, THE STANDARD, THE STAPLE ADVANTAGE OF SUCH A FORUM IS COMMUNICATION, TO LET PEOPLE KNOW THAT, AFRICAN NATIONS KNOW THAT THERE ARE AMERICANS OF PROMINENCE, OF RESOURCES, THAT ARE INTERESTED IN THEIR WELFARE, THAT ARE TRYING TO EXERT INFLUENCE ON OUR GOVERNMENT AND TO LET AMERICANS, WHO DO NOT KNOW EVEN, YOU KNOW, DO NOT KNOW EVEN WHERE BURUNDI IS, NEVER HEARD OF BUJUMBURA OR OUAGOUDOU AND PLACES LIKE THAT COME FACE TO FACE WITH CABINET MEMBERS FROM LESOTHO, I THINK, SERVES TO STRENGTHEN OUR RESOLVE TO EXPLODE THE MYTH THAT AFRICANS ARE NOT CAPABLE OF SELF-GOVERNMENT. AND THESE KINDS OF EXPERIENCES ARE INVALUABLE IN THAT REGARD.

DIGGS: THIS GENTLEMAN HERE HAD HIS HAND UP, IN THE SECOND ROW. I THOUGHT HE WAS TRYING TO GET ATTENTION.
UNIDENTIFIED: NO, I WAS JUST GOING TO ASK A QUESTION ABOUT...
DIGGS: IF I'VE COVERED IT, OKAY.
UNIDENTIFIED: DID RAISE THIS PROBLEM OF (NOT UNDERSTANDABLE).

DIGGS: WELL, I'M INTRIGUED BY THE RECOMMENDATION MADE BY THE DISTINGUISHED FOREIGN MINISTER OF KENYA THAT, I THINK, WILL OBVIOUSLY GET A GREAT DEAL OF CONSIDERATION. IT'S ALREADY EXCITED THE IMAGINATION OF A LOT OF PEOPLE. OBVIOUSLY, SOME IMAGINATIONS LIKE THAT, SOME CREATIVITY LIKE THAT IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE EXERCISED IN ORDER TO OVERCOME THE PECULIAR PROBLEMS THAT FACE, SAY, A LESOTHO
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COMPLETELY SURROUNDED, THAT FACE OTHER NATIONS THAT DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO SUPPLIES EVEN THOUGH THE ARABS MIGHT, OR ARE WILLING, OBVIOUSLY, HAVE ALREADY STATED THEY ARE WILLING TO TRY TO PROVIDE SOME SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS, SO I THINK THAT THE KIND OF IMAGINATION REFLECTED IN THE KENYA FOREIGN MINISTER'S RECOMMENDATION IS A , REPRESENTS A CHANNEL OF RESOLVING THAT PARTICULAR MATTER.
EAST AFRICAN STANDARD: MR. DIGGS, THE DIALOGUE IS TAKING PLACE JUST SOON AFTER THIS MIDDLE EAST WAR WHICH HAVE HAD SOME ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE WORLD OBVIOUSLY. AND HERE WE HAVE AFRICA AND AMERICA, TWO SIDES WHICH HAVE BEEN ON EITHER SIDES DURING THE WAR. DO YOU THINK YOU MIGHT PROBABLY DISCUSS THIS QUESTION AT THE DIALOGUE BECAUSE (NOT UNDERSTANDABLE) THEN YOU'LL FIND THE DIALOGUE AT LEAST BRING THE TWO SIDES TOGETHER?

DIGGS: WELL, I THINK THAT THERE'S NO QUESTION THAT THE AFRICAN-ARAB ALLIANCE REGARDING THE MIDDLE EAST, THE OIL CRISIS WILL HAVE ITS IMPACT ON AMERICAN POLICY, A POLICY WHICH ADMITTEDLY HAS BEEN VERY PRO-ISRAEL. I THINK THAT IT WILL CONTRIBUTE TOWARD A MORE EVEN-HANDED APPROACH ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. AS YOU KNOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE ISRAELIS AND THE ARABS ARE SITTING DOWN AT A CONFERENCE TABLE TOGETHER WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER PRINCIPAL NATIONS OUTSIDE. THIS IS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE CREATIVE DIPLOMACY OF DR. HENRY KISSINGER, THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE, AND THERE'S NO QUESTION THAT THIS REFLECTS SOME CHANGES THAT ARE ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY IN THAT AREA. I THINK WE ARE ALSO, WE OUGHT TO KNOW HOWEVER THAT THE ENERGY CRISIS IS NOT JUST TIED TO THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, THAT THIS HAS BEEN COMING FOR QUITE SOME TIME, THE RISE IN CONSUMER DEMAND FOR ENERGY AROUND THE WORLD, IN THE UNITED STATES, IN KENYA AND IN OTHER AREAS HAS DONE MORE TO CREATE THE CRISIS THAN THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE BUYING MORE AND MORE CARS AND MORE AND MORE ELECTRICAL ENERGY REQUIREMENTS THROUGH THE EXPANSION OF THE TELEVISION, RADIO MARKET, AND SO ON. SO WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO ADDRESS OURSELVES TO

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THIS WHOLE MATTER ASIDE FROM THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PURSUE NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY, AND IT IS IN THAT REGARD THAT I WOULD ANTICIPATE THE GOOD OLD YANKEE INGENUITY WILL COME TO BEAR,, THAT SOME OF THE BYPRODUCTS OF OUR SPACE EFFORT WILL BE BROUGHT IN TO THE PICTURE, THE TECHNICAL GENIUS THAT HAS PROMPTED US TO PUT A MAN ON THE MOON AND TO, I THINK EITHER TODAY OR TOMORROW, COME WITHIN A FEW THOUSAND MILES OF JUPITER, WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THIS ENERGY SITUATION AND OVERCOME SOME OF THE PROBLEMS ALONG THOSE LINES. THERE'S NO QUESTION IN MY MIND THAT WE HAVE THE CAPACITY FOR NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY IN THE PAST, BUT CERTAIN COMMERCIAL INTERESTS TIED TO CERTAIN EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES HAS SORTLF HELD BACK J DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY IN OTHER AREAS AND PERHPAS THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS IN THAT SENSE OF THE WORD, IF YOU CAN CONSIDER IT, MIGHT HAVE BEEN A CATALYST AND MIGHT BE A BLESSING IN DISGUISE.

TORCHIA, ASSOCIATED PRESS: HAS THE ARAB-AFRICAN ALLIANCE HAD ANY EFFECT ON THE THINKING OF BLACK ORGANIZATIONS IN THE STATE CONCERNING THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION?

DIGGS: I SENSE A RISING TIDE OF SYMPATHIES WITH THE ARABS ON THAT SITUATION.

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4762

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I SENSE AN ACTIVATION ON THE ARAB SIDE, CERTAINLY ON THE CAMPUSES, CERTAINLY AMONG BLACK STUDENTS AND IT IS BEGINNING TO BROADEN IN ITS BASE. THERE IS A SENSE DEVELOPING IN CERTAIN PARTS OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY OF A BROTHERHOOD BECAUSE OF THE ARABS AND AFRICANS BEING ON THE SAME CONTINENT FOR THE MOST PART THAT IS AN INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT AND WHICH HAS BEEN PART OF THE CHALLENGE OF THE AMERICAN POLICY AND WHICH, I THINK, IS GOING TO HAVE SOME IMPACT ON WHAT I CALL MORE EVEN-HANDED APPROACH IN THAT REGARD. I JUST HOPE THAT THAT'S PROPERLY EVALUATED. I THINK THE WHOLE QUESTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST IS A QUESTION WITHIN ITSELF. I DON'T PARTICULARLY LIKE TO SEE IT GET MIXED UP WITH AFRICAN POLITICS. I THINK THAT THE COMPLEXITIES OF AFRICAN POLITICS ARE SUCH THAT IT CERTAINLY DOESN'T NEED THE COMPLICATIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST, THAT WE HAVE SO MANY PROBLEMS HERE THAT I THINK THAT STAND ON THEIR OWN MERIT THAT WE OUGHT TO CONCENTRATE ON THAT IN THAT REGARD AND I THINK PEOPLE OUGHT TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT THIS BROTHERHOOD BUSINESS BETWEEN AFRICANS AND ARABS. I THINK THAT THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS ARE LEGITIMATE, BUT PEOPLE WHO BASE IT ON A BROTHERHOOD COMPLEX CAN GET INTO A LOT OF DIFFICULTY BECAUSE THAT WOULD SEEM TO SUGGEST THAT THERE IS NO COLOR CONSCIOUSNESS OR COLOR PROBLEM

REFLECTED IN THE ARAB SOCIETY, AND WE KNOW THAT THERE
IS. WE KNOW THAT THERE ARE PROBLEMS IN THE ARAB
SOCIETY IN NORTH AFRICA. I VISITED EGYPT LAST DECEMBER
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AND WENT TO THE UNIVERSITY THERE AND SPOKE WITH SOME
BLACK AMERICAN STUDENTS WHO WERE VERY MUCH
DISENCHANTED WITH THEIR EXPERIENCES IN CAIRO BASED ON
COLOR. AND THEN THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO CAN RECALL THAT
THE ARAB SLAVE TRADE HERE IN AFRICA. SO I THINK
THAT THESE KINDS OF CONSIDERATIONS OUGHT TO BE FOR
THE RIGHT REASONS, AND I THINK THAT WE OUGHT NOT
DELUDE OURSELVES INTO BELIEVING THAT THE ARAB SOCIETY
IS BEREFT OF COLOR PROBLEMS. AS LONG AS WE SORT THESE
THINGS OUT AND UNDERSTAND THEM AND CONSIDER THEM ON
THEIR MERITS, THEN I THINK THAT WE WILL PROCEED FOR
THE GOOD OF ALL CONCERNED. THANK YOU VERY MUCH (END TEXT).
LINDSTROM

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